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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General submits report to Security Council on humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, citing various options for armed protection of relief deliveries.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata expresses "surprise and concern" over Executive Order issued by President George Bush on 24 May regarding Haitian boat people.

+ Commander of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia holds meetings with leaders of Yugolsav National Army and Croatian Army Command.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today submitted a report to the Security Council providing an analysis of the various options for the protection of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In his report, dated 26 May, the Secretary-General stated that "if it is not possible to achieve the negotiation of, or respect for, agreements for the protection of humanitarian relief deliveries" it might be necessary to consider armed protection of such deliveries. Citing various options for protection while pointing to the risk of hostile action, he said the main danger for United Nations armed protection of road convoys would "not come from road blocks, which would be comparatively easy to deal with", but would come from fire by mortars and artillery located some distance from the road. "For some of the parties the infliction of hardship on civilians is essentially a war aim, as it leads to the desired movements of population from certain areas", the Secretary-General said. He added that "there appears to be a predisposition to use force to obstruct relief supplies".

The Secretary-General said in his report that it was for the Security Council to decide whether to deploy United Nations troops to undertake protection of international humanitarian aid. At the same time, he warned that any mandate requiring United Nations troops to take hostile or coercive action against certain factions in Bosnia and Herzegovina could make it "more

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difficult to secure the cooperation" which the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would need to fulfil its mandate in Croatia. He said the warring parties must be persuaded to conclude and honour agreements permitting the unimpeded delivery of relief supplies to all suffering civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General has asked Jan Eliasson, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, to follow the matter closely and facilitate the early negotiation of agreements on humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and other destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Members of the Security Council are holding bilateral consultations on the Secretary-General's report as well as on the request by Canada for an urgent meeting of the Council "with a view to imposing economic, trade and oil sanctions against the authorities in Belgrade". (S/24000)

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, in a letter sent yesterday to the Under-Secretary of State of the United States, expressed her "surprise and concern" over the Executive Order issued on 24 May by President George Bush regarding Haitian boat people.

That order decreed that instead of the United States Coast Guard taking Haitians it rescued at sea to the United States Navy base at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, where until then they had been interviewed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, they were to be taken back to Haiti. Applications for asylum are now to be made at an office established in Port au Prince.

"I am deeply disturbed that the Executive Order denies those Haitians genuinely in need of international protection the opportunity to present their claims, thus exposing them to risk upon their return to Haiti," she wrote.

According to a statement issued by her Office, Mrs. Ogata has asked her Deputy High Commissioner, M. Douglas Stafford, to lead a delegation to Washington and other capitals in the region "to actively seek a solution to the tragic plight of Haitian asylum seekers that would ensure the principle of non-return of refugees to the country of origin".

The statement mentions the fact that this month the Organization of American States reiterated its concern about "continual violations of human rights ... in Haiti" and says that other reports of serious human rights abuses and violence since the overthrow of the democratically elected Government of Haiti "continue to be cause for great concern".

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The Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia, General Satish Nambiar, who is currently in Croatia, held meetings today with leaders of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) and the Croatian Army Command,

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according to a United Nations spokesman. Following the meetings, he announced that the two sides had "confirmed the withdrawal of all heavy artillery beyond the lines of confrontation". The Force Commander said UNPROFOR had "no illusions about the difficulty of the task before it. "We are working in the context of an armed struggle fueled by suspicion, hostility and even hatred on both sides", he said. "It is essential that we have the full cooperation of both sides if we are to succeed in our mission."

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